

2.1	Context <i>Where do motifs and themes come from?</i>	2.2	Famous Motifs and Themes	2.3	Using Musical Elements
<p>A motif or leitmotif is a recurring musical theme associated with a person, place, item or idea.</p> <p>Richard Wagner, a German composer, liked the idea of a motif and began using them a lot throughout his music, especially his operas. He liked the way that motifs could help link different pieces of music together and help the audience to understand what was happening in the story and how the different elements of the story were connected.</p> <p>Peter and the Wolf, written by Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev in 1936, tells the story through the use of motifs that are used to represent the different characters. A high, quickly moving Flute part represents the birds, a low Bassoon represents the grandfather and jaunty strings represent Peter.</p> <p>John Williams is a film composer who has written music for films such as Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Star Wars and ET. John Williams uses motifs to represent people (Indiana Jones), ideas (The Force in Star Wars), places (Jurassic Park) and animals (The shark in Jaws).</p>		Hedwig's Theme	Hedwig's Theme starts with a high pitched percussion sound chosen because of the small animal it represents and high pitched noise an owl makes. The pitch use is also quite chromatic which makes Hedwig sound mysterious and magical. When the strings come in there are lots of short notes which make it sound like Hedwig is flying.	Dynamics	Soft music can be used for love, sadness or suspense. Loud music for action, anger or horror.
				Tempo	Slow music can be used for sadness or beauty. Quick music for excitement, action or movement.
		The Avengers Theme	The Avengers Theme starts with short spiky string notes which make it sound very busy and full of action. When the brass instruments come in over the top, they are quite loud and they sound heroic. This is a fanfare. Fanfares in music are used to introduce important people or events	Pitch	High pitch can be used for children, terror or weddings. Low pitch for danger, old people or suspense.
				Texture	Thin texture can be used for loneliness, suspense or gentleness. Thick texture for action, movement or excitement.
		The Shire Theme	The Shire Theme starts quite gentle and smooth to represent a Hobbits calm life away from the dangers of the rest of Middle Earth. This then changes to soft spiky notes that show that hobbits are quite funny people and slightly different than other races. It uses a violin as a fiddle as this is the style of music you would hear in a country setting where folk music is more widespread.	Timbre	Smooth notes can be used for love, happiness or calmness. Spiky notes for excitement, amusement, action or panic.
				Duration	Long notes can be used for older people, sadness and suspense. Short notes for excitement, movement and panic.
Silence	Silence can be used to create suspense or create contemplation.				

Listen to all the examples mentioned here on Youtube. You will be tested on this.